

JC03 Rec'd PCT/PTO 19 SEP 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Masayuki SEGAWA et al.)
Application No.: Not Assigned Yet)
Filed: September 19, 2001)
For: SPARK PLUG FOR INTERNAL)
COMBUSTION ENGINE)

Group Art Unit: Not Assigned Yet

Examiner: Not Assigned Yet

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 to read as follows:

✓ 1. (Amended) A spark plug for an internal combustion engine comprising:
a center electrode including a basic body and a first tip joined to said basic body; and
a ground electrode including a base having an interlayer formed at a predetermined
position of said base, and a second tip joined to a surface of said interlayer,
wherein said first tip and said second tip are disposed to face each other, said first tip and
said second tip are each made of Ir or made of an Ir alloy,
wherein a thermal expansion coefficient of said interlayer is between a thermal expansion
coefficient of said base and a thermal expansion coefficient of said second tip.

✓ 2. (Amended) The spark plug for an internal combustion according to Claim 1,
wherein said first tip and said second tip are each made of an Ir alloy that contains (1) Rh of 1.5